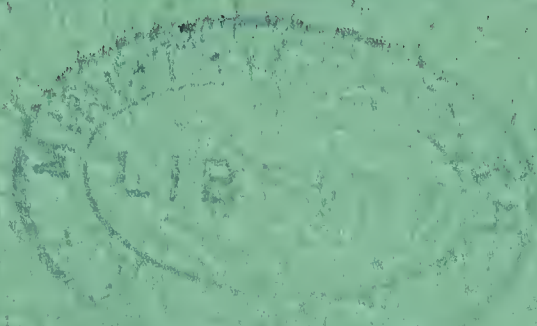




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Borough of Rawtenstall



ANNUAL REPORT

for 1954

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

BOROUGH OF RAWTENSTALL

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
C. CUNLIFFE, A.R.S.I.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:
L. T. SIMPSON, A.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
J. HOLT, M.S.I.A.

Clerks:
A. HALLIWELL, MISS W. ORTON.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector:
A. WORSLEY.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:
ALDERMAN H. TURNER

Vice-Chairman:
COUNCILLOR F. PLATT

THE MAYOR (ALD. A. HALLIDAY) EX-OFFICIO

ALDERMAN E. INGHAM

" J. STANSFIELD

COUNCILLOR H. HALLIWELL

" W. HEBDEN

" S. HILL

" A. INGHAM

" F. LORD

" F. M. PROCTER

" W. H. SHARP

" H. WORSWICK

To the Mayor and Members of the Rawtenstall Borough Council,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1954 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

There has been no outstanding cause of illness or infection apart from an outbreak of dysentery principally affecting children under 15 years of age. The incidence of infectious disease has been remarkably low and none of the cases which has occurred has been fatal.

Cancer of the lung caused seven deaths and the marked preponderance of male deaths is again evident. In the last five years 32 men and 4 women have died from this complaint. Although satisfactory scientific proof of the cause of cancer is not yet available there are some obvious sources of irritant substances in the air we breathe and it is amongst these that the cause may lie. Fumes from burning cigarette paper and from tobacco itself, from our coal and coke fires and furnaces and not least from the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles - all these may contribute their quota of damage to the delicate tissues of the lung.

The Medical Research Council is at present undertaking an extensive programme of work on the effects on health of atmospheric pollution, including pollution by engine exhaust fumes.

Further progress has been made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions. One hundred and thirty-four new houses have been completed, all but one by the Council. First indications of the effect of the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act are that the new provisions are not being widely used. Many houses in this district cannot be improved as required under the Act.

The sale of milk containing tuberculous infection still continues and the Council has asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to prohibit the sale of ordinary raw milk. Action depends amongst other things on the availability of pasteurising facilities.

There were no confirmed cases of food poisoning but the staff of the health department have been kept busy inspecting food and maintaining a close supervision over food shops and premises. A new pupil inspector has been taken on the staff.

The relicensing of private slaughter houses gave the Council much cause for concern and members of the Health Committee made special visits to all premises for which a licence was requested. A return to the old inefficient and inadequate slaughter house was avoided and a reasonable concentration of the work into six premises was finally achieved.

The year has been one of steady progress in maintaining the public health services. The Health Committee and staff have been actively engaged in dealing with changes in legislation and in preparing housing improvement schemes under the new Housing Act. My grateful thanks are due to all concerned for their interest, for the work they have done, and for their loyal service to the cause of better health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL SUMMARY

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 24,900, a decrease of 50 compared with the previous year's estimate. The *adjusted birth rate was 14.4 and the adjusted death rate 14.8 per thousand of the population. There were in fact 338 births and 400 deaths in the borough during the year. The birth rate was slightly below and the death rate above the corresponding rates for England and Wales which were 15.2 and 11.3 respectively.

The infant mortality rate was 30 per thousand live births compared with the national rate of 25.5. Ten deaths of infants under one year of age occurred and eight of these infants died within the first four weeks of life. Four infants were born prematurely and this is a factor which makes their hold on life very precarious. There was one maternal death.

Details are given later in this report of an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery. The principal symptoms of this infection are diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Although the outbreak had been present several weeks before it was discovered successful joint action between all sections of the local authority health services and general practitioners and teachers prevented its extension throughout the town. Nearly one thousand laboratory specimens were tested and over one hundred cases were identified.

No less than seven samples of milk were found to contain tuberculous infection and 25 out of 100 samples failed to pass a recognised bacteriological test. It takes approximately six weeks to test milk for tuberculosis and during this time infected milk is being delivered to consumers.

This situation is very unsatisfactory and the sooner arrangements can be made to provide a safe milk supply the better.

Meat inspection has now returned to the control of the Council and has entailed much extra work particularly at the weekends. Details are given in the section on the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Of 134 new houses completed all but one were constructed by the Council. Closing orders, including undertakings "not to occupy," were made in respect of 35 houses and demolition orders were issued in six cases.

* Adjusted means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.

Improvement grants whereby half the cost is provided by the Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government were approved in ten cases at a total cost of £954. Such property must be capable of providing satisfactory accommodation after improvement for not less than 15 years.

The water supply by public mains has been of satisfactory quality. Under water improvement schemes 126 houses were connected to the public supply. Private water supplies again gave very unsatisfactory results. Twenty-eight out of 70 samples failed to satisfy the accepted bacteriological standards of wholesomeness.

STATISTICS

Area in Acres	9,528
Number of Inhabited Houses - according to the Rate Books	9,533
Number of Inhabited Houses - Census 1931	8,079
Rateable Value	£160,746
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£620
Population - Registrar General's Estimate (Mid-year 1954)	24,900
Population - Census 1931	28,575
Population - Census 1951	25,426

BIRTHS

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	(Legitimate				166	163	329
	(Illegitimate				7	2	9
	(Total				173	165	338
Still Births	(Legitimate				2	2	4
	(Illegitimate				-	-	-
	(Total				2	2	4

DEATHS

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infantile	(Legitimate				4	6	10
	(Illegitimate				-	-	-
	(Total				4	6	10

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Maternal	{ Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
	{ Other Maternal Causes ..	-	1	1
	{ Total	-	1	1
<hr/>				
Neo-natal Mortality - infants under 4				
weeks of age				
		4	4	8
<hr/>				
Total Number of Deaths from All Causes ..		196	205	400
<hr/>				

Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population	13.6
Adjusted Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population	14.4
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	30.0
Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total (Live and Still)	
Births	2.92
Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	24.0
Death Rate, per 1,000 Population	16.1
Adjusted Death Rate, per 1,000 Population	14.8
Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	0.28
Death Rate from Cancer	2.49

ENGLAND AND WALES

Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 Population	15.2
Death Rate, per 1,000 Population	11.3
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	25.5

CAUSE OF DEATH						Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	5	2	7
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	6	1	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	-	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	-	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	20	21	41
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	30	39	69
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	41	13	54
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	5	7
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	26	56	82
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	6	10	16
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	16	6	22
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	3	-	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	1	5	6
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	4	-	4
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	9	16	25
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	5	10	15
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	6	-	6
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
TOTALS						196	204	400

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE BOROUGH

Year	Popu- lation	Death Rate per 1,000	Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Infant Mort. per 1,000 live births	Actual still Births	Maternal Death Rate
			Actual		All. Births			per 1,000 live & still births
			Leg.	Illeg.				
1954	24,900	16.1	329	9	13.6	33	4	2.92
1953	24,950	21.7	339	13	14.1	23	9	2.77
1952	25,140	14.0	319	24	13.6	32	8	2.85
1951	25,320	16.8	322	12	13.2	33	11	nil
1950	25,350	15.5	339	16	14.0	37	7	2.76
1949	25,220	15.4	368	18	15.3	28	5	nil
1948	25,140	14.2	389	19	16.2	48	13	3.93
1947	24,630	15.3	486	9	20.0	58	11	2.38
1946	24,300	14.2	365	23	15.9	35	15	7.35
1945	23,000	17.3	305	21	14.1	55.0	10	5.95
1944	23,630	15.5	386	16	17.3	57.21	9	4.86
1943	23,630	15.6	323	15	14.3	17.75	8	2.89
1942	26,030	12.6	307	10	12.9	34.7	18	nil
1941	25,770	14.8	294	8	11.7	47.02	17	8.92
1940	26,030	14.8	274	5	10.7	46.9	12	nil
1939	26,810	* †	269	11	10.4	60	7	3.48
	26,910							
1938	27,070	14.1	269	11	10.4	60	7	3.48
1938	27,070	14.0	311	10	11.8	62	12	6.00
1937	27,300	15.1	257	9	9.7	71	11	7.22
1936	27,710	14.4	323	12	12.0	59	20	nil
1935	27,940	13.3	263	12	9.8	50	22	nil
1934	28,020	12.4	340	17	12.7	78	12	2.71
1933	28,130	13.8	270	13	10.0	56	19	3.31
1932	28,500	13.2	307	9	11.0	63	21	8.90
1931	28,890	13.4	352	15	12.7	49	22	5.14
1930	28,660	13.2	330	13	11.9	84	22	nil

* Birth

† Death

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council :-
The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food preparing premises including inspection of all meat carcasses at private slaughter houses; sampling of food stuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

OUTBREAK OF SONNE DYSENTERY

In the latter part of February, 1954 investigation of a suspected food poisoning case revealed that the patient, a school boy, was suffering from Sonne Dysentery. Follow-up investigation at the school disclosed that several school children had suffered from diarrhoea in recent weeks and many had been absent from school. The first investigation was carried out during the mid-term holiday and the following action was taken.

1. Head Teacher supplied lists of all children who had been absent from school during the week preceding the holiday.
2. Parents of all children who had been absent were notified not to send the children to school if their child had suffered from diarrhoea, unless he or she had been free from symptoms for one week.
3. All Medical Practitioners were notified of occurrence of Sonne Dysentery.
4. All Head Teachers were instructed on personal hygiene for staff and school children. They were also instructed to exclude immediately children who developed diarrhoea and to advise parents to consult their family doctor. A strict standard of cleaning and disinfection of the W.Cs. was instituted at the affected school.

On the re-opening of the school all absentees were visited and faecal specimens collected from suspicious cases including some children who had returned to school and had recent past history of diarrhoea. Other schools were visited as more information became available. First reports revealed 21 cases and faeces specimens collected from all members of the affected household. Medical practitioners were advised of the further confirmation of the epidemic and a bacteriological control standard was fixed. This prescribed, in the case of children, the obtaining of three successive negative specimens over several days, one week after stopping treatment or after cessation of symptoms. In the case of adults it was suggested that if they were careful to observe good personal hygiene, work may be resumed a week after the last symptoms but check would be made by the collection of three negative specimens. In the case of food handlers, handling easily contaminated food, six negative tests were required. Positive samples were in some cases being received from the adult members of the affected child's household. Many of these adult cases were symptomless excretors.

The daily collection of faeces samples, which were delivered to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, together with the daily enquiries at affected schools and visits to the households of absent children, proved a considerable task for the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors. Eventually this work developed to such an extent that a modified control scheme was instituted to lessen the work and this was notified to the Medical Practitioners and Head Teachers. This was based upon the adoption of a standard exclusion period from school of all affected children. The analysis of the bacteriological tests had shown that on an average it was taking three weeks for the person to become free from infection. School children were therefore excluded from school for three weeks from the onset of the disease or after one week had elapsed from cessation of the symptoms whichever was the longer period. Initial specimens to confirm the illness continued to be taken and the advice to adults concerning their return to work, and also the bacteriological testing of food handlers remained as before. This method of "Exclusion Control" seemed as effective as the more precise method of "Bacteriological Control," and proved more practical and easier to operate in an outbreak of this kind. The date of the first positive bacteriological report was the 2nd March, 1954 and 68 cases were confirmed by the 8th May, 1954 when the exclusion control was adopted. The final number of cases was 114 and the last bacteriological report was received on the 31st May, 1954. Statistics relative to the outbreak were as follows :-

Cases and Reports

Number of faeces specimens examined	..	..	..	..	..	..	935
Number of positive results	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Number of Negative results	..	..	..	..	..	..	793
Number of positive cases by bacteriological examination	..						107
Number of positive cases by notification only	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total number of positive cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Number of positive families	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Number of persons tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	775

Occupational Group of Confirmed Cases

Pre school children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
School children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Adults	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25

Sixty three of the 70 school children affected were confined to four schools the remaining seven cases occurred in six schools. The outbreak underlined the importance of prompt liaison between Head Teachers and the Health Department in all suspected cases of infectious diseases.

GENERAL

Other infectious diseases were mild in character and there were no deaths. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria. Details of diphtheria immunisations during 1954 are shown in the following tables.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during 1954 is shown by the following table:-

AGE AT DATE OF FINAL INJECTION									
0 -	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	Total under 5 years	5 -	10 -	Total 5 - 14 incl.	Total aged 15 & over
200	49	4	-	4	257	15	6	21	-

The number of children who were given a reinforcement injection during 1954, i.e. subsequent to complete course, is as follows:-

AGE GROUP				
0 -	5 -	10 - 14 incl.	Total 0 - 14 incl.	Total aged 15 and over
22	132	71	225	4

The number of children under 15 years of age who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954 is as follows:-

Age at 31. 12. 54 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1 - 4 1953 - 1950	5 - 9 1949 - 1945	10 - 14 1944 - 1940	Total under 15
Number Immunised	21	1,181	1,426	1,337	3,965

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

NOTIFIED DURING EACH YEAR FROM

1945 to 1954

DISEASE	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	42	20	28	7	14	38	7	19	7	16
Diphtheria	42	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia)	41	41	48	32	30	42	50	31	28	35
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia)										
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Acute Polio-encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	-	-	23	10	7	-	112
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	4	8	2	4	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	8	6	5	11	3	5	1	4	5	2
Measles	146	95	97	305	20	479	111	223	254	21
Whooping Cough	15	36	38	105	16	123	66	104	72	74
Malaria - Contracted Abroad	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	6	-
TOTALS	306	241	229	464	90	711	255	392	372	261

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA CASES AND DEATHS, 1937 - 54

	<u>No. of cases</u>	<u>No. of deaths</u>
1937	30	3
1938	19	-
1939	14	-
1940	54	4
1941	12	-
1942	13	-
1943	25	-
1944	27	-
1945	42	1

	<u>No. of cases</u>					<u>No. of deaths</u>
1946					30	
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						
1951						
1952						
1953						
1954						

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following table shows the results of bacteriological and pathological examinations during the year.

<u>Particulars of Examination</u>					<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Throat Swabs</u>							
C. Diphtheriae					—	4	4
Vincent's Organisms					—	4	4
Haemolytic Streptococci					—	4	4
<u>Faeces Specimens</u>							
Dysentery					142	796	938
Typhoid					—	938	938
Salmonella					—	938	938
Totals					142	2,684	2,826

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 14 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and five new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Enquiries are made in every case about the source of infection and family and other close contacts of the patient are examined.

The new chest clinic which opened at Rossendale General Hospital last year is working very well and provides much better accommodation and facilities.

During the year 178 cases were visited, the number of visits paid being 832. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioners concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 182 cases of tuberculosis on the register. Twenty-three cases were added and six cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 199 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following table gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

PARTICULARS OF CASES ON REGISTER DURING 1954

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
No. of cases on register at beginning of year	66	57	123	23	36	59	89	93	182
No. of cases added to register during year	7	9	16	4	3	7	11	12	23
No. of cases removed from register during year:-									
(a) Died	3	2	5	-	-	-	3	2	5
(b) Left the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Recovered ..	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
(d) Diagnosis not confirmed ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases remaining on register at end of year :-	70	64	134	27	38	65	97	102	199

The following table gives the age groups of new cases taken on the register and deaths of cases removed from the register during 1954.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's	Males	Fem's
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	3	1	2	-	1	-	-
35 - 44	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	9	4	3	3	2	-	-

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S E C T I O N D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, in association with the Medical Officer of Health, my eighth annual report on the work carried out in the Borough to improve environmental conditions affecting the health of its citizens.

The implementation of policies approved in recent years has progressed satisfactorily, and it is now possible to discern the cumulative effect of various programmes being undertaken. For instance, in the three years since the end of 1951, when large scale conversion of houses from private to public supply commenced, 625 houses have been connected, whilst a further 51 houses formerly served by an unsatisfactory water supply have been closed or demolished. The scheme for converting obsolete sanitary accommodation coupled with a financial aid started in May, 1952, since then, applications have been approved for the conversion of 391 waste water closets and 35 pail closets to the fresh water closet system. The Government's encouragement to recommence slum clearance work is welcomed although the Council's interim policy of dealing with individual unfit houses which commenced in 1950, following a housing survey, has resulted in 172 houses having been represented, of which 138 are now closed or demolished. Although positive progress is being made in improving the home environment there is little ground for complacency when it is remembered that there are still over 1,200 houses connected to private water supplies where public supply provision is feasible, over 3,000 houses served by tipper closets, and close on 1,500 houses scheduled for demolition. This is an appreciable programme to tackle and is independent of the routine work which must be constantly maintained, whilst appreciable intensification of work connected with atmospheric pollution is expected in the near future. Spectacular results in any one field of the work are impossible in a short time, and as one contemporary has stated the ultimate success of public health work will not be judged "by the number of foundation stones laid but by the number of headstones not laid."

During the year under review there were two major disturbances to the established routine. As the Medical Officer of Health has reported in his section, the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in the town caused considerable work and in fact resulted in the employment of a Sanitary Inspector almost exclusively on this work for three months of the year. It is considered that the close attention paid to the outbreak assisted considerably in keeping the number of persons affected to reasonable proportions. Although the illness may not be considered to be a dangerous infection nevertheless it is very discomfoting and necessary to control as far as possible.

Although the outbreak of dysentery caused only a temporary set back to the routine work of the Department the second feature was of a more permanent nature. This is referred to in more detail in the text to the report but as this letter is intended as a general overall review of the Department's work it is appropriate to mention here the local effect of the Government's rather surprising decision to re-open again the private slaughterhouses as a feature of meat marketing. There could have been very few Public Health Officers who expected that consideration would again have to be given to the opening of private slaughterhouses, and it was not easy in the preparation of reports and advice to the Committee to adjust ones views on the subject in the light of the Government's interim policy. However, after careful consideration and consultation with trade interests six licences were issued, which was a considerable reduction on the 21 which were in operation prior to 1959. Even with such a reduction in the numbers, in order to maintain an adequate system of meat inspection at these six licensed premises, the equivalent of one sanitary inspector employed for at least 50% of his time on this work is needed. The amount of time devoted to these duties in relation to the number of carcasses inspected is uneconomical in manpower compared with public abattoir practice. Nevertheless, perusal of the figures indicating the weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption clearly indicates the importance of the work. Naturally this additional work to the Department's activities resulted in the curtailment of some other work. The Committee's decision to appoint a Pupil Sanitary Inspector was most welcome, and whilst the appointment will have little immediate effect it should be ultimately beneficial to the Department, and coupled with the availability of additional transport facilities the effect of the increased duties will, to some extent, be offset.

One aspect of new work which did not develop, as was originally visualised, was in connection with the application for Certificates of Disrepair in the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954. Only 12 applications were made, and although correct information is not available as to the number of owners who applied the permitted increase of rent, the general view is that comparatively few owners availed themselves of the new provisions. Early indications are that the complicated procedure of the new Act will not bring about the desired effect of substantial improvement in the condition of local dwellings.

In reporting on notable happenings during the year, and with an eye to future developments, it would be amiss not to mention the publication of the report by the Beaver Committee on Air Pollution. The Committee was appointed in July, 1953 following public anxiety aroused by the fog disaster in London in December, 1952. In general the report has been extremely well received and claimed as an excellent document. The recommendations, if adopted by the Government, will entrust important duties to Local Authorities connected with reducing the distressing effects of atmospheric pollution. As the report states, "Air pollution on the scale with which we are familiar in this country today is a social and economic evil which should no longer be tolerated, and that it needs to be combated" with the same conviction and energy as were applied 100 years ago in securing pure water." As can be seen in the report which follows, 1954 has seen some local progress made in this sphere of work by the decision to

install recording instruments to measure atmospheric pollution, and by the installation of plants to reduce smoke pollution at a number of local industrial concerns. The large problem of domestic smoke pollution is as yet untouched. Whilst there is no excuse for nuisance from industrial sources and householders naturally express annoyance at such pollution, they do not always realise that they themselves are contributing at least one-half of the total atmospheric pollution by continuing to burn smokey coals in "open fire places." The trend of recent years to install a new type of fire grate in lieu of the old stool grate has, unfortunately, seldom been done solely to burn smokeless fuels but often the attraction has been their ability to allow slow combustion for fuel saving and for night burning which, with many grades of coal, produces serious emissions of sulphurous smoke. The solution of the domestic problem is not very easy as it must mainly depend on the availability of a sufficient quantity of good quality coke at an economical price.

In conclusion I should again like to place on record the excellent co-operation and assistance I have received from the staff and colleague officials, including those of the Irwell Valley Water Board, and also express my appreciation of the encouragement afforded me by the Committee and Council in the execution of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. CUNLIFFE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of 78 houses in the Cowpe district, which are supplied from mains provided and maintained by the Bacup Corporation, the public water supply to 7821 houses in the Borough is furnished by the Irwell Valley Water Board. The remaining 1413 houses are supplied from private sources, the water being piped into the houses in all but 12 instances.

1. PUBLIC SUPPLY

Upland surface reservoirs at Clowbridge, Greenfold and Clough Bottom, all of which are chlorinated and filtered, provide the source for the main public supply. During the latter half of 1954 the new Loveclough Filtration Plant was in operation for the treatment of the water from the Clowbridge Reservoir and this has resulted in an improvement in the quality of the water from this source. Owing to certain waters being derived from peaty moorlands there is a liability to plumbo-solvency and the water is lime treated to overcome this. Ninety-six examinations for plumbo-solvency were made and found to be mainly satisfactory. The Water Board also reports that satisfactory results were obtained from 96 bacteriological and 22 chemical examinations carried out during the year. The Department also collected six samples for bacteriological examination, five of which proved satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. Extensions of distribution mains were made to areas served by unsatisfactory private water supplies and also to new housing sites.

2. PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Progress has continued satisfactorily in dealing with unsatisfactory private water supplies. The following statistical review sets out the essential details of the action taken this year and since the conversion schemes were commenced in 1951. In one instance, failure of a private water supply serving nine houses some distance from the existing public supply, necessitated the provision of galvanised bins to the houses and a thrice weekly delivery of water by special vehicle pending the laying of new water mains and completion of a "booster" scheme at the Filter Station. Although the cost of the temporary arrangements alone amounted to over £100 this was considered justifiable in view of the serious pollution of the only alternative water supply sited some distance away from the houses.

PROGRESS BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

			<u>No. of Notices</u>		
			<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Informal Notices served on owners	..	..	793	225	1,018
Reminder Notices served on owners	..	..	645	55	700
Formal Notices served on owners	..	..	77	-	77

PROGRESS BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT cont.

	<u>No. of Houses.</u>		
	<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Schemes prepared and forwarded to			
Water Undertakers	1,535	20	1,555
Schemes approved by Council	700	136	836
Houses dealt with under Housing Acts			
(closure or demolition)	28	23	51

PROGRESS BY WATER UNDERTAKERS

New mains laid	545	192	737
------------------------	-----	-----	-----

PROGRESS BY OWNERS

Agreements received from owners to connect			
to new mains	515	158	673
Connected to new mains	482	126	625
Connected by local authority in default ..	17	-	

CONTROL MEASURES - Sampling

	<u>Bacterio-logical</u>		<u>Chemical (Organic Content)</u>		<u>Chemical (Presence of Lead)</u>	
	<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>
No. of samples collected	628	75	86	4	122	4
No. reported satisfactory	268	26	70	4	83	3
No. reported suspicious	74	16	11	-	-	-
No. reported unsatisfactory	286	33	5	-	39	1

CONTROL MEASURES - Warning

Letters to Consumers.

	<u>No. of Houses.</u>			<u>Still Operative 31/12/54</u>
	<u>1951/3</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Advice to boil and to run standing				
water to waste	295	-	295	48
Advice to boil only	625	34	659	308
Advice to run standing water to				
waste only	25	-	25	14

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage scheme is on the separate system and much work has been done in the Borough Engineer's Department in recent years to chart drainage connections and also the numerous water courses and goits which exist in the town. The main extension to the sewerage system was in connection with new housing developments. There were 530 inspections made in connection with drainage defects and 543 complaints of blocked drains and closets were dealt with by the Department during the year. The employment of a man for the prompt release of blocked drains etc. gives a service the value of which cannot be over estimated and is almost indispensable where so many tipper closets exist and from which nuisances so easily arise if immediate attention is not given.

There are a number of farms and cottages not connected to the sewers by reason of their isolation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Rivers Irwell, Limy Water and Whitewell Brook are polluted by industrial premises in the area and improvement in this matter is one of the chief sanitary requirements in this district.

The responsible authority for dealing with pollution is the Mersey River Board, with whom contact was made on a number of occasions during the year regarding abnormal pollutions. The area of the Board is based on the natural drainage areas of rivers and streams which ultimately feed the River Mersey.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

No. of privy middens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. of closets attached to these middens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. of pail closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	303
No. of dry ashpits (exclusive of middens)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
No. of waste water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,034
No. of fresh water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,537
No. of portable receptacles for refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,835

SANITARY CONVERSIONS

The abolition of obsolete types of sanitary accommodation is one of the principal sanitary requirements of the district. Since May, 1952, the Council has contributed £10 towards the cost of waste water closets converted to the fresh water flushed system, provided the work is carried out in accordance with the Department's requirements. The rate of converting pail closets has also increased since May, 1952, following the Council's decision to pay one half the cost of the plumbing and drainage work based on the lowest of at least two tenders. There are comparatively few pail closets remaining within reasonable distance of a sewer. A programme of sewer extensions is being carried out although the vast majority of the remaining pail closets are in remote parts of the town. The conversions are financed from loans obtained by sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

	<u>Converted</u> <u>from</u>		<u>F.W.Cs.</u> <u>provided</u>		<u>Grants</u> <u>Approved</u> <u>for payment</u>		
	<u>Pails</u>	<u>W.W.Cs.</u>	<u>Int.</u>	<u>Ext.</u>			
Applications	2		3	2			
approved		129	25	105			
Conversions	8		5	5			
completed		151	32	124			
Grants	7		4	5	£138	1	10
approved		128	34	99	£1,247	0	0
In association with private	-		-	-			
water supply conversions		31	2	28			

Since the scheme was instituted in May, 1952, applications have been approved for the conversion of 35 pail closets and 391 waste water closets. Grants approved total £655 4s. 10d. in respect of pails and £3,287 0s. 0d. in respect of waste water closets.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1954

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

					<u>Primary</u> <u>Visits</u>	<u>Re-</u> <u>visits</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cleansing and Salvage					95	-	95
Disinfection					22	-	22
Drainage and Sewerage					462	68	530
Factories with Mechanical Power					4	7	11
Infectious Diseases					439	1,034	1,473
Keeping of Animals					19	2	21
Nuisances (Miscellaneous)					82	20	102
Public Conveniences					299	-	299
Refuse Accommodation					169	93	262
Rodent Control					9	4	13
Sanitary Accommodation					354	64	418
Shops Act					4	2	6
Smoke Abatement					12	1	13
Smoke Observations					17	-	17
Verminous Premises					11	2	13
Water Sampling					86	-	86
Water Supplies (private)					99	-	99
Water Supplies (public)					2	-	2

HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

	<u>Primary</u> <u>Visits</u>	<u>Re-</u> <u>visits</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Dwelling house Repairs - H.A.	126	76	202
Dwelling house Repairs - P.H.A.	202	93	295
Enquiries (Miscellaneous)	75	-	75
Survey	4	2	6
Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	19	1	20

FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Food Inspection	133	-	133
Meat Inspection	941	-	941
Food Poisoning	6	3	9
Food Premises - Bakehouses	1	-	1
Butchers	24	33	57
Canteens	-	2	2
Catering Establishments	1	5	6
Food Preparing	27	14	41
Fried Fish Shops	2	2	4
Greengrocers	1	1	2
Grocers	98	3	101
Licensed Premises	1	-	1
Tripe Dresser	1	-	1
Ice Cream Sampling - Bacteriological	16	-	16
Milk Sampling	142	12	154
Slaughterhouses	77	73	150
TOTALS	4,082	1,617	5,699

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR

The following list of housing defects and nuisances were discovered, remedied, and dealt with by the service of notice :-

DWELLING HOUSE REPAIRS AND NUISANCES

RECORDED IN JOURNAL (P.H.A.).

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Abated</u>
Roofs	31	20
Chimney stacks	8	5
Chimney flues	2	-
Eavesgutters	16	7
Rain Water Pipes	11	10
Walls structure	3	3
Wall pointings	24	14

								<u>Found</u>	<u>Abated</u>
Yard surfacings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4
Outbuildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10
Pails defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Waste water closets defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	35
Waste water closets converted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Fresh water closets defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
Drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	45
Dustbins defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8
Dustbins insufficient	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	3
Ceilings, Ceiling Plaster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	10
Wall plaster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	8
Windows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9
Doors, Door woodwork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
Floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Fireplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
Sinks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Water Supply fittings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Offensive Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
Water Supply Improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Dust and Effluvia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
								—	—
Total Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	287	215
								—	—

In addition to the above, 543 complaints relating to blocked drains, etc., were dealt with. During the year 690 dustbins were supplied by this Department.

NOTICES SERVED

Informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Statutory	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Twenty-five smoke observations of industrial chimneys in the area were made during the year and generally more improvements to industrial boiler plants were carried out than for some time following our contact with works managements. Improvements carried out included the provision of induced draught fans to supplement natural draught at two works, the installation of the F.R.S. firing door at one plant, and the conversion from sprinkler to coking stokers with self-cleansing grates at another. Results to date show an improvement of conditions at all four works. In one instance the particular industrial concern has been a persistent offender in the creation of black smoke for some time and after much patient informal approach a statutory notice was served. Reduction in pollution has been effected by the improvement of draught conditions and better instrumentation of plant.

There are 64 factory chimneys in the Borough of which 52 are used in connection with steam raising plant as follows:-

Power, process and heating	..	..	..	18
Power and process only	..	..	..	6
Heating only	..	..	..	28

Twenty-five smoke observations were taken during the year with results as follows :-

Less than three minutes black smoke per half hour (Bye-law standard)	..	17
More than three minutes black smoke per half hour	.. .. .	8

DISINFESTATION

Advice and assistance is given to all occupiers of infested premises who seek our help. Treatment for householders is free if their co-operation can be secured, and the methods vary according to circumstances. The substances used are 5% D.D.T. powders with pyrethrum, 5% liquid D.D.T. in kerosene, and Fumite D.D.T./Lindane smoke generators.

Treatment by the Department's staff has been undertaken in the following cases :-

				<u>No. of Rooms</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Cockroaches	- Domestic	..	..	50	36
	- Schools	..	..	1	1
	- Factories	..	..	5	3
	- Shops	..	..	4	2
	- Hospitals	..	..	1	1
	- Bakehouses	..	..	1	1
	- Licensed premises		..	30	8
Fleas	- Domestic	..	..	30	8
Furniture Beetles	- Domestic	..	..	6	2
Wood Lice	- Domestic	..	..	13	6

DISINFECTION

One thousand, four hundred and seventy-three visits were made during the year in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of rooms and articles. The abnormal amount of work spent on these duties was due to an outbreak of Sonne dysentery, reference to which is made by the Medical Officer of Health. The following treatments were given in 1954 :-

							<u>Disinfected</u>		<u>Destroyed</u>	
							<u>T.B.</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>T.B.</u>	<u>Others</u>
Rooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	10	-	-
Beds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	1	16
Other Articles	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	10	12	112

SCHOOLS

There are 22 schools in the Borough and the following table sets out the general standard of sanitary arrangements. The Regulations referred to are based on the School Premises Amending Regulations.

Yard Surfaces unsatisfactory	12
------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Sanitary Accommodation :-

Fresh Water closets only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Trough closets only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Deficiencies by standards prescribed by Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Refuse Disposal by dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22

Water Supply :-

Public Mains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Private Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Washing facilities unsatisfactory according to standards prescribed by Regulations	17
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Drinking facilities unsatisfactory	20
------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

The facilities for handling school meals were mainly satisfactory and a high standard of clearliness was observed. A central meal kitchen supplies the majority of schools, the meals being carried in insulated containers.

Progress continued in the conversion of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation and at the end of the year all proposed schemes were in hand. This will eventually result in the provision of separately flushed fresh water closets at all schools, an improvement in the school environment which has long been overdue and must have beneficial effect in the future.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one tripe dressing premise in the Borough which receives periodic inspection.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Control of moveable dwellings is effected by Section 140 of the Rawtenstall Corporation Act, 1907. No applications were made during the year.

RAG FLOCK

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, came into operation on the 1st November, 1951, and the Act repeals the Rag Flock Acts of 1911 and 1928. There are no licensed premises within the Borough but three premises are registered as users of filling materials.

RODENT CONTROL

Regular visits are made to premises which in the past have been infested with rodents and treatment is given at all premises found to be infested following routine visits or complaint. A free service is given to tenants of domestic properties but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises. Wherever sites are suitable Warfarin baits are used and continued success with this type of treatment is resulting in the standard pre-baiting technique rarely being used. The sewers in the Borough were treated twice during the year and the infestation continues to be at a low but apparently irreducible level. Doubt is expressed as to the need for continuing twice yearly treatments and whether a proper assessment of infestation is made by yearly 10% test baiting of all manholes. Periodic review of the whole sewerage system would seem advisable and in this connection the Ministry has, after representation, sanctioned the test baiting of all manholes in the coming year.

The prolonged bad weather during the year prevented the full scale treatment of river banks which it was hoped to treat annually. It was only possible to give treatment to those sections of the river where surface infestation, found at adjoining premises, appeared to be linked with infestation of river banks.

The following summary sets out the work carried out during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling houses (2)	Agricul- tural (3)	All Others (4)	Total (5)
Number of properties in Local Authority's District ..	12	9182	220	920	10334
Number of properties inspected as a result of :-					
(a) Notification	1	118	10	66	195
(b) Survey under the Act	1	9	15	4	29
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	57	57
Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	35	431	29	264	759

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :-					
(a) Rats (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	1	20	7	31	59
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	1	56	1	28	86
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	2	76	8	59	145
Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments ..	9	80	9	64	162
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act ..	-	-	-	-	-
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	2	-	23	25

SEWER TREATMENTS

	<u>1st treatment</u>	<u>2nd treatment</u>
Total No. of manholes	2,126	2,126
No. of manholes test baited	298	-
No. of manholes pre-baited	468	262
No. of infested manholes	139	51

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The above Act which came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, seeks to control the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale. All primary inspections were carried out in conjunction with the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.A. and four licences were issued after premises had been rendered satisfactory for their particular purpose.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>	<u>No. of Notices</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	182	-	-
Factories not included above to which Section 7 applies	162	11	-

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Notices</u>
Other Premises to which Section 7 applies	9	-	-
Totals	353	11	-

DEFECTS FOUND

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>to H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>
Sanitary Conveniences :-				
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	1	-	-
	-	3	-	-

OUTWORKERS

In accordance with Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, notifications on the August list were received from nine factory occupiers in the Borough that 42 outworkers are employed in classes of work specified by order.* These are entirely connected with the slipper industry. In eight cases where the outworker carried on work outside the Borough the appropriate Local Authorities were informed.

* This shows an increase of 2 outworkers over last year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of domestic and trade refuse including salvage is undertaken by five S.D. freighters.

The town is divided into four districts and a weekly system of refuse collection is maintained throughout the year apart from such times as when holidays intervene or when wintry conditions impede collections. The fifth vehicle is engaged mainly on trade refuse and salvage collection.

The average length of haul to the tip is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

REFUSE STORAGE

Refuse storage arrangements are, on the whole, maintained by property owners in a satisfactory condition. With very few exceptions they respond readily to informal notice from the Department and request us to supply renewals. Generally, therefore, the bins throughout the town are of standard type mainly of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. B.S.S. pattern. Refuse is collected from 9,531 houses, of which 9,471 have 9,799 dustbins. There are 14 ashpits at isolated cottages not situated conveniently for regular collection. The worst feature of the storage accommodation is in connection with certain types of back-to-back houses where communal bin stores and sharing of dustbins is an unsatisfactory feature.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal of refuse is dealt with on controlled tipping lines at Meadow Head, although some difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient covering material for satisfactory tip sealing. The number of loads tipped during the year was as follows :-

Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,713
Sweepings	..	..	..	..	..	..	219
Gully Material	..	..	..	..	..	..	144
Various	..	..	..	..	..	..	781

PAIL CLOSETS

The mechanical gully emptier is hired from the Highways Department on two days per week for the emptying of 217 pails provided at unsewered property. The large majority of these pails are emptied weekly and on each occasion the emptied pail is charged with approximately a gallon of "strong" disinfectant fluid.

CLEANSING COSTS

The cost of refuse collection and disposal (excluding excreta removed) for the financial year ending 31st March, 1954 was as follows:-

		<u>Collection</u>	<u>Disposal</u>	<u>Totals</u>
		£	£	£
Total gross expenditure	.. ..	12,445	2,368	14,813
Gross income	.. ..	60	1,156	1,216
Nett cost	.. ..	12,385	1,212	13,597
Nett cost per 1,000 population	..	497	49	546
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	.. ..	1,298	127	1,425
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Nett cost per ton	.. ..	1 12 8	3 2	1 15 10

SALVAGE

The weight and value of salvage collected during the year are as follows :-

							T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	..	..	..	..	..	..	131	8	0	911	14	4
Textiles	..	..	..	..	..	..		6	1	2	15	6
Ferrous Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	3	11	8	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	3	157	0	2
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	19	3	1,082	18	6
Less Salvage 'Bonus'				..	..	..				102	17	7
Nett Income	..	..	..	..	..	..				980	0	11

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Two hundred and ninety-nine visits by members of the staff were paid to the public conveniences in the area.

A new convenience was built at Water at a cost of £753 5s. 0d. and plans were approved for the erection of a new one in Crawshawbooth during 1955.

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SECTION E.

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(i) By the local authority	133	-
(ii) By other local authorities	-	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons	1	-

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	337
Number of inspections made for the above purpose	759
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	62
Number of inspections made for the above purpose	202
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	62
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	275

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority and its officers	225
--	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

1. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 9, 10 and 16):

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-	
(i) by owners	nil
(ii) by the local authority in default	nil

2. Public Health Acts :

- (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied nil
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (i) by owners nil
- (ii) by the local authority in default nil

3. Housing Act, 1936 (Sections 11 and 13) :

- (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 6
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 8
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings "not to occupy" were accepted by the local authority 33

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Section 12) :

- * (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. 2
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

* Amended by Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1954 nil

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during 1954 .. 5

Number of persons concerned in such cases 28

HOUSING ACT, 1949

1. (a) Number of schemes submitted :
- (i) By private individuals 11
- (ii) By local authority nil
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses affected 11

2. (a) Number of schemes approved :
- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| (i) of private individuals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| (ii) of local authority | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil |
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses affected 10
3. (a) Number of additional separate dwellings provided .. . nil

GENERAL

The general standard of housing accommodation in the Borough cannot be regarded as satisfactory owing to the prevalence of close on 2,000 houses of the back-to-back type and over 1,400 houses over 100 years old. Although many of the back-to-back houses are of sound construction they cannot be regarded as satisfactory owing to the poor accommodation they afford and their lack of reasonable amenities. The housing survey has revealed that there are over 3,000 houses which must be considered in the sub-standard house programme of which approximately one-half will require to be demolished and the remainder will be reviewed in the future as to whether improvement, including through conversion of back-to-backs, is a sound financial and desirable policy. The findings of the survey will of course form the basis of the return which is to be made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955 but the rate the programme can be dealt with is dependent on the allocation of new houses which can be made available for the purpose. These matters were being considered at the time of writing this report. Although, theoretically, slum clearance activities have only been reviewed since the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 the Councils interim policy of dealing with seriously unfit houses has had an appreciable cumulative effect over the past five years as the following figures show.

CONDEMNATION BY FORMAL REPRESENTATION OR

INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH OWNERS

						<u>Re. housing required</u>	<u>Re. housing not required</u>
Dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	72	66
Outstanding	..	..	..	..	..	34	-
						<hr/>	<hr/>
						106	66
						<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total</u>						<u>172 houses</u>	

At the end of the year the number and type of houses required to deal with the first priority list of 279 applicants for Corporation houses was as follows:- (a) 4 bedroomed parlour type - 10; (b) 3 bedroomed parlour type - 4; (c) 3 bedroomed non-parlour type - 59; (d) 2 bedroomed non-parlour type - 178; (e) bungalows and flats - 24. It is estimated that a further 2,000 houses are required to re-house families from unfit dwellings.

New housing schemes in hand at the end of the year are as follows:-

- 8 Block of Flats Ormerod Street, Water.
- 12 Block of Flats Hobson Street, Rawtenstall.
- 4 Block of Flats Springfield Road, Rawtenstall.
- 10 Block of Aged persons bungalows at Adelaide Street, Crawshawbooth.
- 28 Houses and Flats at Higher Cloughfold Housing Estate.
(First stage of slum clearance scheme).
- 12 Bungalows adjacent to Bury Road on the Balladen Estate.
- 26 Houses and Flats Balladen Estate.

Contemplated housing schemes will be the additional development of Balladen Estate, completion of stage 2 at Higher Cloughfold and possibly preparation of the scheme envisaged for the Bridleway Area.

It is anticipated that no special difficulties will be encountered in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses.

As mentioned in the opening letter only 12 applications for certificates of disrepair were made and each one was granted. The Housing Repairs and Rents Sub-Committee was constituted during the year and delegated powers were given by the Council to deal with applications for certificates of disrepair and matters arising therefrom. For the guidance of the Sub-Committee the Health Committee recommended certain standards of fitness which, in general, should be applied in considering the application.

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SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The supervision of milk production on farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Local Authorities are still responsible for many important duties connected with milk distribution, including the sampling of milk after it leaves the farm. They also possess the powers for prevention of infection of milk, and duties in connection with water supply, sewage disposal and housing at farm and dairy premises.

The reports of all adverse samples are notified to the Ministry's officers controlling milk production, and they in turn visit the farms to give advice.

A matter which gave cause for some concern during the year was the increase in the number of tubercular samples of milk obtained following biological examinations. This may have followed an intensification of sampling which was undertaken, sampling, which apart from the increase in numbers, resulted in such a coverage that all the producer-retailers in the Borough were sampled at least twice during the year. The ensuing elimination of tuberculous milk cows may result in better results in future years and results so far taken in 1955 confirmed this view. Nevertheless, although such sampling is a safeguard in itself it cannot deny the necessity for the speedy implementation of the milk policy which ensures that at least all milk which is not from a tubercle-free herd should be heat treated. It will be recalled that the Council made overtures to the Ministry of Food on these lines and requested that this area may be a "specified area" as early as possible.

The complete figures are as follows:-

	<u>No. of samples</u>	<u>No. satis- factory</u>	<u>No. unsatis- factory</u>
<u>Raw Milk - Designated</u>			
(a) Tuberculosis biological test	55	53	2
(b) Methylene blue reduction test	58	43	15
<u>Raw Milk - Undesignated</u>			
(a) Tuberculosis biological test	65	60	5
(b) Methylene blue reduction test	67	57	10
<u>Pasteurised Milk</u>			
(a) Phosphatase Test	9	9	-
(b) Methylene blue reduction ..	9	9	-
<u>Sterilised Milk</u>			
(a) Turbidity test	6	6	-

The following registrations and licences are in operation in the district:-

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No. of registered distributors operating from :-

(a)	Shops in the district	81
(b)	Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of dealer's licences (including supplementary licences) for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	6
--	---

The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

No. of licences issued in respect of "heat" treated milk	<u>Retail Distributions</u>	
	Pasteurised	12
	Sterilised	80

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Prior to the decontrol of meat supplies all meat supplied for retail sale in the Borough was inspected at the Colne Public Abattoir. The introductory letter mentioned the local effect of the change of policy which operated from July. Twelve applications were made for the opening of private slaughter houses and six licences were granted and six refused. The six premises were only fully licensed after they had been brought up to a satisfactory standard of fitness and an appreciable amount of work was carried out as indicated in the table below. It was considered that the six slaughter houses provided ample slaughtering facilities for the Borough and this proved the case. Even on peak demand it is estimated that little more than a third of the shops in the Borough obtain meat from local slaughter houses, the remaining shops buy their meat "off the hook" from outside sources. By the end of the year a 100% system of meat inspection was in operation and this means that the carcass and all organs of every animal is inspected thoroughly before being released as fit for human consumption. Fitness in this case of course means freedom from disease and other abnormality and is not concerned with the quality and class of meat sold. The institution of such a system necessitated 941 visits being made to private slaughter houses, and work outside normal working hours including Sundays was called for. The following tables give some indication of the value and importance of the work.

MEAT INSPECTION RECORD SUMMARY

	CATTLE EXCL. COWS	COWS	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP & LAMBS
No. of animals killed	648	234	86	277	4,569
No. of animals inspected	648	234	86	277	4,152
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	11	-	5
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	177	91	-	45	498
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	27.3	38.9	12.8	16.2	8.2
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	6	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	113	94	-	12	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	17.9	42.7	-	4.3	-

Analysis of Condemnations

Disease Classification	Entire Carcases	Part Carcases	Head	Lungs	Heart	Skirt	Liver	Part Liver	Kidneys	Spleen	Stomach	Intestines	Udders	Tails	Wgt. of Meat	Wgt. of Offal
<u>Cattle (882 Inspt.)</u>																
Tuberculosis	9	15	68	175	18	33	29	-	21	19	15	63	8	9	7,374	2,884
Other than T.B.	-	2	12	75	2	13	72	137	1	11	1	12	22	1	388	2,894
<u>Calves (86 Inspt.)</u>																
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other than T.B.	11	-	11	11	11	11	11	-	22	11	11	11	-	11	435	65
<u>Sheep (4,152 Inspt.)</u>																
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other than T.B.	5	3	5	19	11	5	225	325	10	5	5	5	-	-	136	513
<u>Pigs (277 Inspt.)</u>																
Tuberculosis	-	1	7	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	78	31
Other than T.B.	-	-	1	43	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	83

Weights condemned

								<u>Weight of Meat</u>	<u>Weight of Offal</u>
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,452	2,915
Other than Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	969	3,555
Total weights	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,421 lbs.	6,470 lbs.

Reasons for Condemnation of Whole Carcasses

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis	9	14	-	-
Immaturity	-	11	-	-
Fevered	-	-	1	-
Extensive bruising	-	-	1	-
Dropsy	-	-	3	-

In addition to the above, six carcasses affected with cysticercus bovis were sent for suitable cold storage treatment before release for consumption.

The incidence of tuberculosis in cattle still remains high when it can be observed that nearly 43% of cows and 18% of cattle excluding cows were affected with T.B. in some degree or other necessitating condemnation of over three tons of meat and over one ton of offal from 882 animals.

All condemned meat and offal is, immediately after inspection, collected by the Department, stained with a green dye and later sold for manufacture into feeding meals and fertilisers. The proceeds from the sale of the meat are credited to the butcher suffering loss whilst income from the sale of offal defrays the Corporation's handling charges. This system has worked satisfactorily and ensures proper control and satisfactory disposal of diseased meat and offals.

One-hundred and thirty-three inspections were also made for the purpose of inspecting food at retailers' premises and the following articles were condemned.

Cake	7 lbs.	Meat	245 lbs.
Cheese	3 lbs.	Milk, tinne	39 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints.
Condiments ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Pickles	1 lb.
Cream	2 lbs.	Pigs offal	25 lbs.
Fish, tinne	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Preserves	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fish, wet	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Rabbits	40 lbs.
Fruit, tinne	226 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Vegetables	140 lbs.
Meat, tinne	182 lbs.		

The following defects noted and work done following inspection relates to all food premises including slaughterhouses.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Abated</u>
Ablution arrangements	3	5
Soap and Towel supply	10	12
First Aid arrangements	-	1
W.Cs. in direct communication with food room ..	1	-
Food Rooms used for domestic use also	-	1
Food storage	2	2
Food display	-	5
Refrigeration	-	2
Food handling	-	2
Animals in food rooms	-	1
Tables, benches and counters	12	18
Shelves	2	1
Machinery and equipment	19	22
Crockery and glass ware	1	1
Washing up fittings	6	6
Hot water provisions	13	15
Natural ventilation	8	13
Artificial ventilation	1	1
Natural lighting	3	3
Artificial lighting	2	6
Water supply insufficient or defective	2	2
Drainage unsatisfactory	6	5
Water closets defective or insufficient	1	1
Notice not displayed re handwashing	5	4
Walls	25	27
Floors	16	15
Ceilings	15	16
Woodwork	12	14
Yard areas or passages	6	6
Vermin infestation	1	1
Refuse storage	6	6
Refuse bin defective or insufficient	4	4
External structural defects - P.H.A. items	26	35
Failure to take all reasonable steps to prevent contamination of food	2	5
Storage of utensils, crockery, cutlery, etc.	2	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>258</u>
Number of Informal Notices	17	
Number of Food Premises concerned	17	

The number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year was as follows:-

General grocers and provision dealers	137
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	38
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	3
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	48
Bakers and/or confectioners	59
Fried fish shops	38
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	20
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	117
Others	4

ICE CREAM

There are seven manufacturers of ice-cream in the Borough, three of whom use the hot-mix method and four the cold-mix method. In only one instance is the production carried out on a large scale, the others are small traders and shopkeepers manufacturing for their own requirements. In all cases special rooms are used for ice-cream manufacture, and none is made in association with domestic arrangements.

The details of registrations at the end of the year were as follows:-

					<u>Hot Mix</u>	<u>Cold Mix</u>
1.	Wholesale manufacturers				1	-
2.	Manufacturing retailers				2	4
3.	Retail vendors - pre-packed				74	-
	- loose				14	-
<u>Totals</u> ..					91	4

Generally speaking, inspection of the above premises revealed that the relevant Acts and Regulations, together with the adopted Lancashire County Council's Codes of Practice, were being satisfactorily observed.

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were collected for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

<u>Provisional Grade</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
1	14
2	1
3	1
4	-

FOOD POISONING

Four cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year, all were single cases and despite exhaustive enquiries the specific causes of the illnesses were not located.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION

The Lancashire County Council undertake the sampling of food for quality, assistance being rendered by this Department as required. Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly furnished the following information:-

A total of 132 samples was obtained; of these, 82 were of milk and the 50 others comprised:-

2 Beef sausages.	1 Syrup.
2 Pork sausages.	1 Baking powder.
1 Saccharin tablets.	1 Pie filling.
1 Custard Powder.	2 Dripping.
1 Shortbread mixture.	2 Jam.
3 Sponge cake mixture.	2 Ground almonds.
1 Soup, tinned.	3 Currants.
3 Fruit, tinned.	2 Sultanas.
5 Sweets.	1 Beef suet.
1 Pickled cabbage.	2 Mincemeat.
1 Mixed pickles.	1 Cut mixed peel.
3 Zinc ointment.	2 Flavouring Essence.
1 Ice cream.	1 Salmon paste
1 Sugar.	1 Peanut butter.
	2 Milk, tinned.

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>
1 Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 2.4 per cent extraneous water.
1 Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 2.3 per cent extraneous water.

Both these samples were taken from the same vendor and he was cautioned.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

Functions with regard to above Acts which are administered by the Health Committee are carried out by the Police. I am indebted to Supt. G. Smith for details of the work carried out by his officers during 1954.

No. of cases of Foot and Mouth Disease	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of cases of Anthrax	..	..	..	..	1 *
No. of cases of Fowl Pest	..	..	..	..	1 *
No. of cases of Swine Fever	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of cases of Sheep Scab	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of cases of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	8 ‡
No. of notices of intention to Sheep Dip	21

* Not confirmed.

‡ Two cases not confirmed.

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	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>Pages</u>
SECTION A.	Statistics and Social Conditions	5 - 9
SECTION B.	General Provision of Health Services	10
SECTION C.	Prevalence and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases	11 - 17
SECTION D.	Sanitary Circumstances	18 - 33
SECTION E.	Housing	34 - 37
SECTION F.	Inspection and Supervision of Food	38 - 45

	<u>Pages</u>		<u>Pages</u>
Bacteriological Examinations ..	15	Medical Officer of Health's	
Births	6,7	Introductory Letter	3,4
Chief Sanitary Inspector's		Milk Supply	38,39
Introductory Letter ..	18,19,20	Neo-natal mortality	7
Deaths	6,7,8	Nuisances, recorded and abated ..	25
Diphtheria	13	Offensive trades	28
Disinfestation	27	Pet Shops	30
Disinfection	27,28	Public Cleansing	31,32,33
Diseases of Animals Acts	45	Public Conveniences	33
Drainage	23	Rag Flock	29
Dysentery Outbreak	11,12	River Pollution	23
Factories, inspections	30,31	Rodent Control	29,30
Food Inspection	41	Sanitary Accommodation and	
Food Poisoning	44	Conversions	23
Food Shops	42,43	Sanitary Inspections	24,25
Food and Drugs Sampling	44	Schools, sanitary conditions of ..	28
Health Committee	2	Slaughterhouses	39
Health Services	10	Smoke Abatement	26,27
Housing	34 - 37	Staff	1
Ice cream sampling	43	Statistics	6
Infantile Mortality	7	Tents, Vans and Sheds	28
Infectious diseases	12,13,14,15	Tuberculosis	15,16,17
Maternal Mortality	7	Vital Statistics	7,9
Meat Inspection	39,40,41	Water Supplies	21,22

